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**PATENT**  
Docket No. 10259/13

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR : Geoffrey M. MILLER  
SERIAL NO. : 09/227,406  
FILED : January 8, 1999  
FOR : COMPUTER-BASED SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATING  
ADMINISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN  
TRANSCRIPTIONS IN A MEDICAL OFFICE  
GROUP ART UNIT : 2164  
EXAMINER : G. Akers

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Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

The Applicant filed a Response to Non-Compliant Amendment on November 5, 2001 in response to a non-final Office Action mailed July 25, 2001. On November 26, 2001, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action indicating that the amendment would not be entered because it raised new issues, but also indicating that the claims on appeal were the new claims 30-42 added in the November 5, 2001 response. However, there was no final rejection prior to the Advisory Action. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that (1) the November 5, 2001 amendment should have been entered, (2) the November 26, 2001 communication from the Examiner should have been designated a final rejection if the Examiner felt new claims 30-42 were unpatentable over the prior art of record, and (3) a statutory three-month response period should have been set to run from the date of the November 26, 2001 communication.

In view of these circumstances, and at the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicant has filed herewith a request for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §